

young men and women from the First Congressional District of New York who have been chosen to serve their country in various branches of the Armed Forces of the United States. These courageous individuals will put their lives on hold to ensure the security and welfare of their fellow Americans. Their unwavering patriotism, dedication to our nation's values and sacrifice in defense of our great nation is inspiring. Each of the following students has my deepest appreciation for their service to our country, and I ask my colleagues to join me in personally recognizing:

Army, Howard Kyle, Bayport Blue Point High School; Army, Jennifer Baez, Bellport High School; Army, Henderson Coppin, Bellport High School; Army, Kelsie Lehmann, Bellport High School; Army, Dominic Nieves, Bellport High School; Army, Alex Martinez, Eastport South Manor High School; Army, Harlee Kealos, Longwood High School; Army, Maria Valdez, Longwood High School; Army, Jasmine Campbell, William Floyd High School; Army, Jocelyn Garcia, William Floyd High School; Army, Katherine Guzman, William Floyd High School; Army, Theresa Nguyen, William Floyd High School; Army, Ashley Troche, William Floyd High School.

Marines, Patrick Alles, Bayport Blue Point High School; Marines, Christopher Feliz, Bellport High School; Marines, Coby Mayfield, Bayport Blue Point High School; Marines, Dominic Donnolo, Center Moriches High School; Marines, Jonathan Berni, Eastport South Manor High School; Marines, Brian Herrarte, Longwood High School; Marines, John Borrero, Patchogue Medford High School; Marines, Edward Calderon, Patchogue Medford High School; Marines, Daniel Fried, Patchogue Medford High School; Marines, James Miller, Patchogue Medford High School; Marines, Joe Tangel Jr., Patchogue Medford High School; Marines, Dominick Caputo, William Floyd High School; Marines, Bradley Ladolcetta, William Floyd High School; Marines, Nick Levantino, William Floyd High School; Marines, Travis Mazza, William Floyd High School; Marines, Marcos Oliverflores, William Floyd High School; Marines, Anthony Pizzuti, William Floyd High School.

Navy, Dylan McCarthy, Bayport Blue Point High School; Navy, Anthony Donnadio, Patchogue Medford High School; Navy, Joseph Rodriguez, William Floyd High School; Navy, Peter Vu, William Floyd High School.

Air Force, Alexander Parris, Bellport High School; Air Force, Julie Pandolf, Patchogue Medford High School.

These enlistees will be recognized on May 17, 2018, at the fourth annual "Our Community Salutes Brookhaven Town Enlistee Ceremony" at Sunset Harbor in Patchogue, NY.

Mr. Speaker, we, as a nation, are extraordinarily grateful to each and every one of these thirty-six individuals for answering the call of duty. Each of these young Americans has our eternal gratitude and we will never be able to adequately repay them for their service to our nation. It is my distinct honor and privilege to represent them and their families in the First Congressional District of New York. I wish them the best of luck in their respective branches and in all of their future endeavors.

## IN RECOGNITION OF ARVIN-EDISON WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

### HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District in celebration of its 75th Anniversary of providing much-needed water to communities across the southeastern San Joaquin Valley.

Organized in 1942, the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (AEWSD) entered into its first agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation twenty years later in 1962. Today, the Water District consists is tasked with managing, treating, acquiring, and supplying water to 131,660 acres of agricultural land in Southeast Kern County, California.

Between 1964 and 1968, with support from the Bureau of Reclamation, the District constructed its primary water distribution facilities. Since then, AEWSD has continued to invest in its infrastructure to provide reliable water supply to its members. Among its various infrastructure projects, the District constructed its Tejon Spreading Basin in 1972, the North Canal Spreading Basin in 1999, and various new wells between 1996 and 1998.

The Arvin-Edison Water Storage District is comprised of approximately 132,000 acres of land, encompassing more than 113,000 acres of irrigated crops including vineyards, almonds, citrus, and carrots, to name a few. In 2016, the AEWSD supported over 1.1 billion dollars in agricultural products, nearly twenty percent of agricultural commandeers grown in Kern County.

Today, the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District is led by President Edwin Camp, Vice President Jeffrey G. Giumarra, and Secretary John C. Moore. The District's current Board of Directors also includes Ronald R. Lehr, Howard R. Frick, Dennis B. Johnson, Charles Fanucchi, Catalino M. Martinez, and Kevin E. Pascoe.

Among the District's operations staff are Engineer-Manager Jeevan S. Muhar, Deputy General Manager David A. Nixon, Director of Water Resources Steven C. Collup, and General Superintendent Christopher P. Krauter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Arvin-Edison Water Storage District on their 75th Anniversary and thank them for their years of providing reliable irrigation water to support agriculture in Kern County.

## RECOGNIZING DR. JASON CHAO

### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Dr. Jason Chao to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), and I congratulate him on his retirement.

Dr. Chao, Primary Advisor to the Ambassador of the Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC), has been serving TECRO for the past 25 years. Throughout his esteemed career, he

has been the chief congressional liaison officer and the principal escort officer for congressional delegation trips. Many Members of Congress and congressional staff have learned more about Taiwan because of Jason's work.

Dr. Chao has consistently shown wisdom, professionalism, passion, and dedication during his many years of service. He has also been instrumental in helping steer the promotion of bilateral relations and the exchange of cultural and economic growth between the ROC and the United States.

We will miss Dr. Chao, but we are excited for his future endeavors and we offer him our sincere thanks for his many contributions to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship.

## NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2018

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I rise to commend numerous exceptional leaders from Indiana who were honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame Class of 2018. While there were many deserving nominees, this year's inductees include Dr. Vidya Kora, Bill Hasse, Jeff Strack, Terry McMahon, Scott Albanese, and MonoSol. For their many contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, these honorees were recognized at the 11th Annual Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, served as the keynote speaker for this special event.

Dr. Vidya Kora is a general internist with the Franklin Clinic of Michigan City and also serves as a LaPorte County Commissioner. In addition, Dr. Kora is involved in numerous civic, charitable, and professional organizations. His numerous accomplishments are to be commended. Notably, Dr. Kora was especially influential while helping former Governor Mitch Daniels and state legislators expand Indiana's Medicaid program through the implementation of the Healthy Indiana Plan. Dr. Kora has also worked tirelessly to improve the school system in Michigan City and has assisted with establishing a public transportation system, which connects Michigan City, La Porte, and Westville. A longtime area physician, Dr. Kora opened his Michigan City medical practice in 1986 and has maintained an outstanding reputation in his field and his community since that time.

William "Bill" Hasse III became the third generation owner and president of Hasse Construction Company, Incorporated in 1984, after the death of his father, William A. Hasse Jr. Due to his strong leadership and devotion, Bill has been successful in growing the family business. In the 1990's, Hasse Construction diversified and acquired public projects, including municipal and school projects, underground utility work, and projects in the healthcare industry. In addition, Mr. Hasse has continuously given back to the community through his work with the Lake County Economic Alliance, Hospice of the Calumet Area, and the Hammond YMCA, among others.

Jeff Strack is the President and CEO of Indiana Grocery Group/Strack & Van Til. Last year, when the parent company Central Grocers filed for bankruptcy, Strack & Van Til was forced to shut down numerous stores. Jeff was not going to lose the family business that has been around for almost six decades. After he and a group of investors formed Indiana Grocery Group and put together a successful bid to buy back Strack & Van Til, Mr. Strack vowed to keep it a family-owned business. Today, under Jeff's leadership, the grocery chain has twenty locations in communities throughout Northwest Indiana. In addition, Mr. Strack is focused on providing good jobs and assisting charitable organizations throughout the region.

Terry McMahon is the owner and president of the successful accounting firm, McMahon and Associates, in Munster. Terry started his company in the 1970's with only himself and a part-time typist. Munster was a growing community at that time, and as the town developed, the company continued to grow. Today, McMahon and Associates consists of thirty employees and three partners, serving 600 businesses and handling approximately 1,300 personal income tax returns. Terry attributes his success to the development of positive relationships with clients and his outstanding employees. In addition, Mr. McMahon is known for his generosity and gives back to the community through various charitable endeavors.

In 1983, Scott Albanese, owner and CEO of the Albanese Confectionery Group, opened his first candy store in Merrillville. After years of hard work and dedication, in 2000, Scott opened his second location, which has become the successful and popular Albanese Candy Factory and Outlet Store in Hobart. Under Mr. Albanese's direction, the company manufactures its own products, operates internationally, and continues to grow.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Mono Sol, a division of Kuraray, a Japanese company that acquired the business in 2012. MonoSol produces a patented water-soluble film used in numerous products and markets. Operating since 1953, the company has grown exponentially since the TidePod was introduced by Proctor & Gamble in 2012. Under the direction of its CEO, P. Scott Bening, MonoSol has doubled its workforce since 2012 and is currently headquartered in Merrillville. MonoSol also maintains a plant in La Porte and two manufacturing facilities currently located in Portage. The company has diversified into other areas of its market including agricultural and packaging materials, as well as synthetic marble for stone products used in home construction. MonoSol has been a tremendous asset to the community of Northwest Indiana, and Mr. Bening is focused on growing the company in the region, a community of which he is very proud to be a part.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. They are truly deserving of this honor, and for their exceptional leadership and commitment to the region and beyond, each of them is worthy of the highest praise.

# TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JOHN DESIMONE

## HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2018*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, John DeSimone, for his exemplary Military service during the Korean war, and his steadfast commitment to his family and his community.

Born in New York City on June 3, 1931, John DeSimone lived in lower Manhattan until he moved to Astoria in 1969 with his wife, Mary Ellen Sapanaro DeSimone. They were married for 45 years until her passing in 2015. They share a daughter, Maria, who lives with her husband in a separate apartment of the same home.

On November 15, 1951, John DeSimone was drafted and entered the U.S. Army. He completed Army Basic Training at Camp Kilmer in New Jersey, now known as Fort Dix, and served in the Transportation Corps of the U.S. Army in the 13th Field Artillery Regiment, Ordnance Transportation Company.

Private First Class DeSimone served with honor and conducted assigned tasks above the call of duty in combat conditions. PFC DeSimone was decorated with the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Merit Unit Commendation. He was awarded three Bronze Stars with his Korean Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service in support during the most hostile period of the Korean war. PFC DeSimone's outstanding performance, expertise, and unwavering commitment to mission accomplishment in a hostile environment were vital to successful combat operations. His contributions and dedication to duty are in keeping with the finest traditions of the armed forces and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. He was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army on November 4, 1953 after serving 1 year, 11 months, and 20 days.

Prior to his service, John DeSimone had worked as a runner for the New York Stock Exchange and later returned to the NYSE following his honorable discharge. He worked as a runner for the NYSE for forty more years. After retiring, Mr. DeSimone continued to serve others as a school crossing guard for fifteen years and an Elder in Steinway Reformed Church, where he was involved with the Ministry as a devout Protestant. When he later developed Alzheimer's, Mr. DeSimone began attending day programs at Sunnyside Community Service and NYU Horticultural program, where he was actively involved.

Mr. Speaker, John DeSimone's service to his family, his community, and his country is an inspiration to all of us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring my constituent, John DeSimone, and thank him for his service.

# CELEBRATING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF KEVIN KREMER

## HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2018*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Kevin Kremer, and his

tireless devotion to educating and training students. Throughout his 28 year career in education, Kevin has mentored and guided countless number of students both in and out of the classroom.

As a cross country and track & field coach, Kevin has inspired student athletes to reach their fullest potential while instilling in them a team-first attitude.

For 18 years Kevin coordinated trips to Washington, D.C. for Zeeland Public School students. With his careful attention to every detail involved in these trips, including reservations for hotels and airlines, loading metro passes, and scheduling activities in and around Washington, D.C., Kevin created opportunities and lifelong memories for students from all walks of life.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin Kremer dedicated his life to educating and inspiring the future leaders of this nation. It is thus fitting and proper that we celebrate and honor his service here today. I extend my deepest gratitude to Kevin for his years of selfless service, and I offer my congratulations on a job well done.

# IN HONOR OF VICKIE JASMANN FOR WINNING THE 2018 WYOMING JEFFERSON AWARD

## HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 1, 2018*

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vickie Jasmann on winning the 2018 Wyoming Jefferson Award. She deserves to be very proud of this prestigious recognition.

The Jefferson Award is the most revered award for public service in Wyoming. It was created with the goal of honoring individuals who enrich the communities and may otherwise go unnoticed. The award emphasizes the importance of serving local communities and that one person can indeed make a difference. In Wyoming, a panel of five judges independently score nominated individuals and determine four finalists, including one winner.

Vickie Jasmann is a true inspiration to all who know her. She is a force for good in the Casper, Wyoming community. Her service started at a young age and only grew from there. When she was growing up, her family installed a phone line in their house for the American Cancer Society because there was no office in town. Her mother also helped start the local Relay for Life chapter. She has continued her work for the two organizations, motivated by her own battle with cancer and others she has lost along the way.

Vickie also works with the American Legion Auxiliary to support her fellow veterans and serves as a foster parent. She has fostered also 200 children over 10 years, including one that she adopted.

Vickie volunteers wherever she is needed, whether it be for organizations, festivals, or members of the community in need. She participates in theater productions at the Senior Center, served as a greeter at the Help the Homeless project, and was a Certified Tourist Ambassador during the Eclipse Festival. She also helps elderly members of the community with errands and picks up single mothers' children when needed.